This is our VVRC REPEATER print version An expanded online version is available by free subscription http://www.jcis.net/~hewbob/vvrc/vvrcnews.htm I got it this time Bob!

VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB

VACAVILLE, CALIFORNIA

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February 2011

President's Message

Scott Joseph, KI6YYZ

The Super Bowl is history, we're well into the New Year, time to dig in.

Our VP has been busy arranging for speakers for up coming meeting. Marcus Maclean KI6WDX will be enthusiastically giving us an update this month on future speakers.

A special thanks to Marcus for filling in for me at the last minute. I injured my back the day of the club meeting and could move. Never having run a meeting, Marcus jumped in and took charge. We all appreciate it Marcus. It's great to have a VP at the ready.

See all of you this month at our February meeting.

READ THE LABEL

Please read the address label on this newsletter. If it says "12/10 – EXPIRED" after your name, it means that your membership in the VVRC expired on 12/31/10. The renewal process is fairly simple. Just put your name and call sign on the application blank on page 5 of this newsletter and send it along with your dues to the address shown on the application. There is no need to fill in the rest of the form unless the information has changed.

As many of you know, Skipp May, WV6F generously allows the club to use his repeaters. This includes not only the 2 Meter repeater that we use for the club net on Tuesday nights, but his other repeaters as well. Please support Skipp in his efforts by including a donation to the repeater fund along with your dues.

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You can save $2.00 on your ARRL membership by including a payment for your ARRL dues as well. You don't need to wait until you membership in the ARRL expires. They will just add 12 months to your present subscription.

January Club Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM by Club Vice President Marcus Maclean KI6WDX who was filling in for the injured Club President Scott Joseph KI6YYZ. Scott injured his back and couldn't move. This was a last minute situation.

The treasurer's report was not formally presented in January but will be presented in February in detail. It was mentioned that the club is in strong financially.

No minutes were presented from the December 2001 Christmas Party Club Meeting. It was mentioned that all had a great time.

Old Business: Second signature on the club account still needs to be done. It was promised to be completed immediately and reported back to the club in February.

New Business: Discussion on how the newsletter is distributed took place. Since Bob produces it and mails it, no changes will be made at this time. It will still be available on line as well.

Discussion took place on speakers, how the net is run, and what other events the club participates in during the year. No changes were made.

The raffle was won by Jerry KD6WKY in the amount of $21.

Radio Raffle is Coming Soon!

Larry Hogue, W6OMF, donated a Kenwood TR7400A for the good of the club. This is month 5 of 6 for those in the competition. If you attend six meetings in a row beginning last October, your name will be placed in the hat for this drawing.

For Sale!

The following items are for sale. Please contact Larry Hogue W6OMF for details:

Yaesu FT-912R in the box, complete... $225 + $25 shipping http://www.rigpix.com/yaesu/ft912r.htm

Grundig YB 400 Shortwave receiver, Complete $75 + $25 shipping http://www.dxing.com/rx/yb400.htm

Yaesu FT-212RH two meter FM mobile $50 + $25 Shipping http://www.rigpix.com/yaesu/ft212rh.htm
Radio, manual, mount, MH-15 c8 mic.

Kenwood TM-455A UHF Transceiver $350 + $25 Shipping http://www.eham.net/reviews/detail/545
Radio, Mic, Pwr Cord, Mobile Bracket and NO MANUAL!!!

KENWOOD TM-742A TRI BANDER 6/2/440 BOX, BOOK, PWR CORD, AND MIKE. $700 + 25 Shipping

KENWOOD TS-570D HF 160-10 METERS BOX, BOOK, MIKE, PWR CORD. $550 + 25 Shipping

AMPLIFIERS FOR SALE

RFC 2-317 $170 (144) + 20 Shipping

RFC 2-417 $170 (144) + 20 Shipping

COMMANDER II $1500 (144) two people have tried to make arrangements for a meeting and pickup... not happening... So I hate to ship but if they really want to take the chance I can pull the transformer and ship in two boxes... It will be working when it leaves here... It will be packed right but will be your baby... exact shipping charges…

VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB—2009
ELECTED OFFICERS

President: Scott Joseph, KI6YYZ
Vice President: Marcus Maclean, KI6WDX
Secretary: Jerry Olive, KD6WKY
Treasurer: Bob Hewitt, W6HEW

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Director: Skip Lawson, AF6HC
Director: Chris Jones, KD7TQO
Director: Antonio Del Rio, N6ZGB
Director: Tom Christman KE6MDM

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Net Control Chairperson: Open
Activities Chairperson: Board of Directors
Newsletter Editor: Jerry Olive, KD6WKY
Newsletter Publisher & Distributor: Bob Hewitt, K6HEW

YAESU FT-530 DUEL BAND HT, WITH FNB-26XS 7.2V 2100 mAh BATTERY, MH-12 A2B SPEAKER MIC, NC-42 DROP IN CHARGER, NC-18B WALL WART, AND BOOK. $150 + 20 shipping

FT-736R ORGINAL WITH BOX, OPERATION MANUAL, DC PWR CORD, CTCSS, VOICE, CW FILTER, MAINTENCE MANUAL, AND HAND MIC. $700 + exact shipping.

All the equipment is as is and no implied warranty or returns.

The Adventures of a VHF Rover!

It's always an adventure whenever you try something new or travel somewhere you've never been before, or combine trying something new and traveling new places together. What you end up with is nothing like you probably thought you'd start out with in the beginning.

This was what happened to Scott Joseph KI6YYZ and me during the 2011 January VHF Contest. We planned on rolling through and activating groups of grid squares as a rover for the tons of people on the air all trying to work us. That was the plan.

We began our preparation with a trip to Larry W6OMF to gather advice and a little hardware. I was a bit worried that Scott might not make it; he had a back injury he was recovering from in the two weeks prior to the contest.

On the Saturday morning of the contest we were ready to go at 8:00 AM with one stop at the happiest place in the world…Home Depot. We needed a few fasteners to finish up the hardware kit.

We decided to start in CM88 near Arbuckle, CA. Not knowing were would be a good place to set up, we stopped in town. I went inside to the ACE Hardware store for advice and got nothing useful. Upon returning to the truck, Scott was talking with a guy that had come out of the irrigation supply store and was interested in the antenna assembly on the back on Scott's truck. Jose was his name. Jose gave us very good directions to head west of town past the golf course and up the dirt road into the foothills. As it turned out this was where Jose use to party with his friends back in high school.

When we got there just as Jose described all was good. Just as Jose had described, we had a nice flat spot in the foothills with a great view. Scott spotted a coyote in the distance as we drove west on the dirt road. He must have been big because at a mile away we could see him running away looking back at us.

We got the six meter and two meter antennas up and made our first contact with W6TV in DM06 east of Fresno, then worked several stations in CM98 and CM99. I put up my Buddipole and tuned it for six meters and made a few contacts as well.

After lunch we drove over to a one horse town in CM99 called Grimes, CA. Seriously, this place is small. The town resides along the Sacramento River. We parked on top of

the levee in a nice flat spot with good tie down locations to gates and fences.

After setting up there, we got on the air and made one more contact with a guy in Redding which is the same grid CM99.

We met a guy who had parked his old beater car no the levee and was heading out to go fishing. He stopped to talk with us for a few minutes. This guy was an older Filipino man with a pompadour haircut/Elvis look alike appearance. He was well known in the local community we found out later.

About the time it got dark, we decided to head in. We packed it up and drove back to Vacaville. Our first attempt at a VHF contest as a rover was interesting. I think a beam antenna would be valuable along with elevation. Who knows, another time perhaps we can do it again.

DXpedition to South Orkney Island

The DXpedition to South Orkney Island has been on the air for a week now. By the time we meet Wednesday night they will be finished and heading home.

As of this writing Tom N6AJR is showing up in their log on 20 meter SSB, and Jerry KD6WKY is in their long on 40, 30, 20, and 17 meters CW and SSB.

They have a great website that is very user friendly. Go to http://www.vp8o.com/ and surf around. There are lots of photos of the penguins and seals who inhabit the island.

The WX has been very good all things considered. The temperature has been right at zero degrees Celsius. Remember it's summertime down there.

THE VVRC WELCOMES YOU

The Repeater is Published by the Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143, An ARRL Affiliated Club. Founded 1987, Chartered 1988 General Meetings: 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM 420 Vine Street Fire Station.

Wheelchair accessible

2011 Field Day Packet Now Available

It's that time of year again -- time to start gearing up for ARRL Field Day, June 25-26, 2011! ARRL's flagship operating event -- always held the fourth full weekend in June -- brings together new and experienced hams for 24 hours of operating fun.

Field Day packets are now **available for download** and include the complete rules (including a change for 2011), as well as other reference items such as forms, ARRL Section abbreviation list, entry submission instructions, a Frequently Asked Questions section, guidelines for getting bonus points, instructions for GOTA stations and a kit to publicize your event with the local press.

There is one rule change for 2011. Starting this year, all stations operating in Class A may use a free VHF station without increasing their operating category. This is designed to encourage more activity on the VHF bands, especially 6 and 2 meters, during the best sporadic-E season of the year.

We have also included in the FD packet a brief one-page flier with basic "What is Field Day" information that may be reproduced as a handout for your information table.

Visit the Repeater online courtesy of Bob K6HEW at:
http://www.jcis.net/~hewbob/vvrc
Club repeater in Vacaville:W6VVR 145.470 MHz(-) pl 127.3

The W6VVR net call is Tuesday evenings at 7pm on the club repeater. All are invited to participate in this weekly meeting on the air. 73!

Additional local repeaters
WV6F 224.200(-) WV6F 440.025(+)
W6OMF Repeater 224.540 MHz, PL 118.8 Hz.

Amateur Radio Quiz: The Year in Review

By H. Ward Silver, N0AX
n0ax@arrl.net

What happened last year in Amateur Radio? Sometimes it's easier to remember things from long ago than from the past 12 months. Here are some events gleaned from The ARRL Letter back issues that you may have read about. Do you remember?

1) January: Amateur Radio stepped up to help with international emergency communications from what natural disaster?
a. Chilean earthquake
b. Caribbean hurricane
c. Haitian earthquake
d. Russian wildfire

2) **February**: W6ZH passed away. Pete was the grandson of what US president?
a. Coolidge
b. Roosevelt
c. Wilson
d. Hoover

3) **March**: After lengthy negotiations, a *Memorandum of Understanding* between the ARRL and what other organization was finally signed?
a. The American Red Cross
b. ITU
c. MARS
d. FAA

4) **April**: What city terminated its once-touted BPL service as having turned out to be economically infeasible?
a. Cincinnati, Ohio
b. Manassas, Virginia
c. Liverpool, England
d. Winnipeg, Canada

5) **May**: The FCC released a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* (*NPRM*) to change the amateur privileges in what band?
a. 70 cm
b. 6 meters
c. 20 meters
d. 60 meters

6) **June**: The opening of what weather season for which hams prepare all year long began on June 1?
a. Tornado
b. High temperature
c. Pogonip
d. Hurricane

7) **July**: What ARRL governance event takes place during this month?
a. Field Organization Annual Convention
b. NTS Governors Association
c. Board of Directors meeting
d. Section Manager training

8) **August**: What astronomical entity was named for the ARRL as announced in an August *ARRL Letter*?
a. Martian crater
b. Asteroid
c. Comet
d. Saturnian ring

9) **September**: In this month, a judge in New York declared that an Amateur Radio was not a _____?
a. Illegal type of body piercing
b. Cell phone
c. Public nuisance
d. Gambling device

10) **October**: The DXCC program announced it recognized four new entities. From what entity or entities were they created?
a. Netherlands
b. Netherland Antilles
c. Dutch Surinam
d. Saint Bartholomew

11) **November**: The results of what major operating activity were published online ahead of their traditional print publication in the December issue of *QST*?
a. Field Day
b. ARRL International DX Contest
c. October SET
d. School Club Roundup

12) **December**: The FCC announced new rules for what license program?
a. Novice grandfathering
b. Experimental 500 kHz operation
c. Vanity and club call signs
d. 70 cm repeater operation

Bonus: What ARRL contest for new hams was initiated in 2010?

Answers are on the next page.

DXØDX DXpedition Postponed

To the DX Community at large - It's with regret that as Team Leader, I have to announce the postponement of the DXØDX Spratly Islands DXpedition 2011, due to circumstances beyond the control of the DXØDX Team.

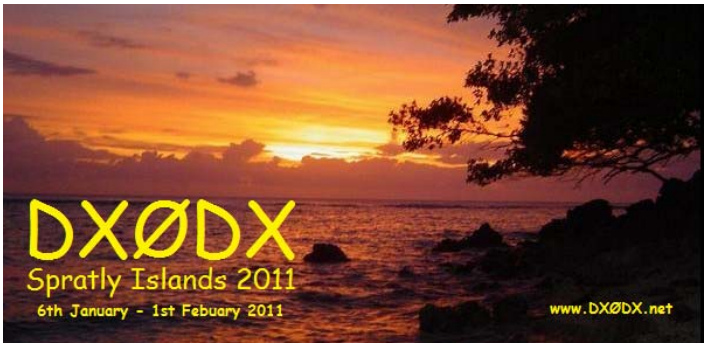
Our situation began when our original mode of transport by ship was terminally damaged back in late October 2010. We then went to our contingency plan which was to fly in, as there were no ships deemed to be safe and provided facilities for safe passage to Pag-Asa, available.

We hand landing permission and booked the correct sized aircraft and with the security cleared pilots. To simplify it, there was conflicting agreements and hence the aircraft could not get approval of its flight plan.

The bottom line is this. We have a license, we have authority to land via ship, hence when the ship becomes available in the near future, it is my intention to activate this entity in 2011.

The team has worked tirelessly to remove the hurdles that were placed before the team in the last minute.

As time was running out for this window of opportunity, and before more operators become stuck here in Palawan, the decision was made to postpone the activation.



A call was placed to PARA advising them that a postponement of the activation would be sought to a date in in the near future, where the activation will look at again taking place.

All equipment will need to be exported out of Philippines to comply with current Philippine Customs Law in which it was brought into the country.

The plan is to be re-assessed so the current operators have the first opportunity to be on this future trip.

Once more information is at hand, I will advise the DX Community.

Regards

Chris de VK3FY

Answers from the previous page
January: c January 14
February: d February 11
March: a April 1
April: b April 8
May: d May 13
June: d June 3
July: c July 22
August: b August 5
September: b September 16
October: b October 14
November: a November 4
December: c December 16

Bonus Answer: The Rookie Roundup

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB, INC.

Name: _____ Call Sign_____
Street:

_____
City: _____Zip: _____
Phone: (_____) _____-_____OK to Publish ?(_____)
License Class: _____ ARRL Member ?(_____)
E-Mail Address_____
FAMILY Member (Spouse or Children)
Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)
Name: _____ Call Sign_____

MEMBER Dues --------- $20.00 _____
Each Family Member -- $ 2.00 _____
Student ---------- $ 5.00 _____
Repeater/Autopatch donation --- _____
Call/Name badge -------- $10.00 _____
Optional ARRL membership
ARRL dues ---------- $37.00 _____
Senior is 65 yr or older with one time

Mail to : Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143